

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting

September 3, 2008 MINUTES

Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Joe DeVito (Chair), Marianne Cook, Donna Gordon, Peter Harrington, Ellen Manning, Stephen Ross, Terance Sack, Sharon O. Stout, Kirsten Tuohy

Regrets: Anthony Bibbo, Richard Dyer, Matt Green, Joanne Kazarian, Stephanie Pelkowsky, John Staulo, Robert Staulo Students: Greg Kelley

Staff: Beverly Droz, Director, Human and Volunteer Services

Guests: Chris Fortunato, Police Officer David Spirito

The meeting was opened at 7:15pm due to the Fire Alarm going off at 7pm.

Introductions were made and Chris Fortunato, former long time youth worker from NCSC Teen Reach, was welcomed back as was student Advisory Member Greg Kelley. We also welcomed Officer David Spirito from the Newton Police Department.

A motion to accept the minutes of June 10, 2008 was passed.

A motion to accept Treasurer's report was passed:

The balance for Youth Commission's Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget is \$2500.00. The year runs from 7/1/08 through 6/30/09 and members expressed relief that this amount had not been reduced given all the budget cuts. The YC revolving account balance is \$606.12

Nominations:

It was noted that we need to get students involved by May of each year so that they can participate over the summer in the planning of Autumn Invasion before we reach September.

At the June meeting we had appointed 2 new students for the Advisory Board Council, Jennie Krems (a NSHS senior) and Maya Guttman (a NNHS junior) however they had let Bev know they could not attend tonight. A motion was made and passed to re-appoint Greg Kelley, a NNHS senior.

Youth Commission members with ties to teens will outreach for new members. Bev noted if we have more than the 5 mentioned in the Ordinance, we can make them alternate members.

We acknowledged Officer David Spirito for attending tonight until the Police Department appoints a new representative for the Youth Commission Advisory Board.

Old Business:

Regarding budget cuts, it was noted that one position of the 4 Youth Police Officers was indeed cut by the end of the FY07-08 budget and we lost former representative Officer Jim O'Loughlin. Joe DeVito heard back from the Mayor this summer that the 4th position would be refilled. Appreciation was given to Ellen Manning for writing the advocacy letter that the Newton Youth Commission sent to the Police Chief, Mayor Cohen, and others advocating the need for the 4th officer. And thanks went to Joe DeVito for his phone calls and following up on the letter.

New Business/Programs:

Bev reported she received a letter introducing Christine Duvivier and Dr. Ned Hallowell as potential speakers for the Youth Commission. In May, they gave a joint presentation entitled "Unwrap Your Teen's Gifts" at the Wellesley Library sponsored by the Wellesley Youth Commission. Their 2-hour awareness-building presentation to parents was very popular and they are booking fall and winter dates. Their company is Positive Leaders and they are very flexible in the amount of a fee they would charge. Bev did not know the price range and was asked to look into it.

Other Programs: Joe noted that we typically sponsor the FCD seminars in both high schools in the spring, but we are not wedded to it. He asked that members come prepared to the next meeting to suggest programs.

Youth Foundation Sub-Committee: no report**Autumn Invasion, scheduled for Oct. 19:**

Bev noted that there was no meeting of students over the summer. She thanked Ellen Manning for updating all the solicitation letters. Bev stated that the rest of tonight's meeting would be focused on planning this event and she had prepared all the mailings so that members could stay and help collate. Then they will go in the mail tomorrow.

Since we only have 1 student with us tonight, we will plan for an Autumn Invasion planning meeting on Sept 16 or 17 at 7pm if students are available to attend. Bev will follow-up by email to organize it.

In order for this event to happen, students need to line-up the bands that will participate, solicit businesses to donate to the raffle, oversee the promotional and advertising aspects to "turn students out", and help plan the logistical details of running it.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Note: Several members stayed for a half hour to help with the Autumn Invasion mailing.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, OCTOBER 1 at 7:00pm in the City Hall cafeteria.